

Contingency Plan

RFP #03410-330-18

Bidder Questions and State Responses

1. Is the State considering an option wherein an outside consulting firm will assist DVHA and VITL to implement the recommendations included in the HTS evaluation report as part of the contingency plan?
 - a. The development of a contingency plan is an independent piece of work. The State may elect to hire a third-party to assist in related implementation work at a future time.
2. Has the State already begun the research process of determining its ownership interest in VITL, its assets, and IP? If so, will these findings be made available to the selected firm?
 - a. Yes, initial determinations have been made through internal legal resources. All pertinent resources will be made available to the selected vendor.
3. Is the State asking for a recommendation or *legal* opinion regarding its ownership interest in VITL?
 - a. It's important to note that the contingency plan must provide actionable steps that the State can employ should the HIE operator prove unable to meet their statutory obligations.
4. Is it the State's intent that the contingency plan focuses *only* on the replacement approach (VITL replaced with another operator) if VITL and DVHA together fail to implement HTS's recommendations?
 - a. First and foremost, the State is committed to ensuring that state-wide HIE services are available. The feasibility of the approach is much more important than adhering to the current methods.
5. Is the "intent to bid" date – which is the same as the due date – correct? Yes, this is correct
 - a. Yes, this is correct
6. There is a very short amount of time between the publishing of State's answers to questions and the proposal due date. Can the proposal due date be extended?
 - a. No, we are on a very tight deadline
7. The "Criteria for Scoring" on page 10 lists four areas that will be evaluated and scored. The narrative on page 9 lists an additional fifth area (Implementation schedule). If this fifth area is included in the evaluation, what are the criteria added without being highlighted?
 - a. The implementation schedule will be done in the contract
8. When will the final assessment of DVHA's and VITL's progress be made? i.e., when will the determination be made regarding the need for the contingency plan to be initiated?
 - a. The third-party evaluation of progress will help the State and the legislature determine if the contingency plan should be initiated.
9. Why has the State mandated that a contingency plan be developed?
 - a. See Vermont H.901.

10. What progress has been made to date with implementing the current recommendations?
 - a. This information will be documented through the mechanisms laid out in Vermont H.901.
11. What key barriers are necessitating the development of a contingency plan?
 - a. See Vermont H.901.
12. What is HTS's role in implementing the recommendations included in the "Health Information Technology Report"?
 - a. Currently, HTS does not have a distinct role in helping the State implement the recommendations from the evaluation report.
13. What will HTS's role be in developing the contingency plan?
 - a. HTS has no role in the development of the contingency plan.
14. Who will implement the contingency plan that is produced as the deliverable of this RFP?
 - a. If the plan must be implemented, the State or a contractor of the State will be responsible for implementation.
15. Will HTS have a role in implementing the contingency plan? If so, what will it be?
 - a. Currently, HTS does not have a distinct role in helping the State implement the recommendations from the evaluation report.
16. Is HTS eligible to propose on this RFP?
 - a. HTS has elected not to bid on this RFP.
17. No weighting is provided for the technical proposal or program costs proposal. What is the weighting of the scoring for Section 2. "Technical proposal"?
 - a. This is a typo as the scoring sheet has not been developed yet
18. Why is the firm (HTS) that made recommendations (that cannot or will not be implemented) participating in evaluating the contingency plan developed by another consulting firm?
 - a. See Vermont H.901.
19. Assessment of state ownership interest is referenced in the "Health Information Technology Report" and was a requirement of the RFP 03410-240-17 HIT Evaluation Services" (see page 39). There is no detailed spreadsheet of the assets that were identified and referenced on pages 63-64 of the "Health Information Technology Report". Where can this information be found?
 - a. All available and related resources will be provided to the selected vendor.
20. HTS is one of our company's competitors. We are a privately held company and do not release our financials publicly. We are especially concerned about releasing them to a competitor (HTS) as required in the RFP. Can these be withheld from view of our competitor by being marked confidential or with some other convention? Please state how to keep this information from being viewed by HTS, our competitor.
 - a. See Section 1.6 and its subsections in the RFP.
21. What are the circumstances which are requiring a contingency plan so soon after the original recommendations were made?
 - a. The circumstances are well documented in the evaluation report and Vermont H.901.

22. Are the recommendations in the Health Information Technology Report realistic given that a contingency plan is required so soon after its delivery?
 - a. This RFP is focused on the development of the contingency plan, not the implementation of the plan.
23. We use a blended rate for our fees, not a specific markup rate. The details of Schedule B do not apply to our fee structure. How does the state want us to respond?
 - a. A blended rate is fine if it includes travel and materials
24. Does the state prefer a fixed price vs. time & materials contract?
 - a. A blended rate is fine if it includes travel and materials
25. We use a blended rate for our fees which is not based upon allocation. The details of Schedule C do not apply to our fee structure. How does the state want us to respond?
 - a. A blended rate is fine if it includes travel and materials